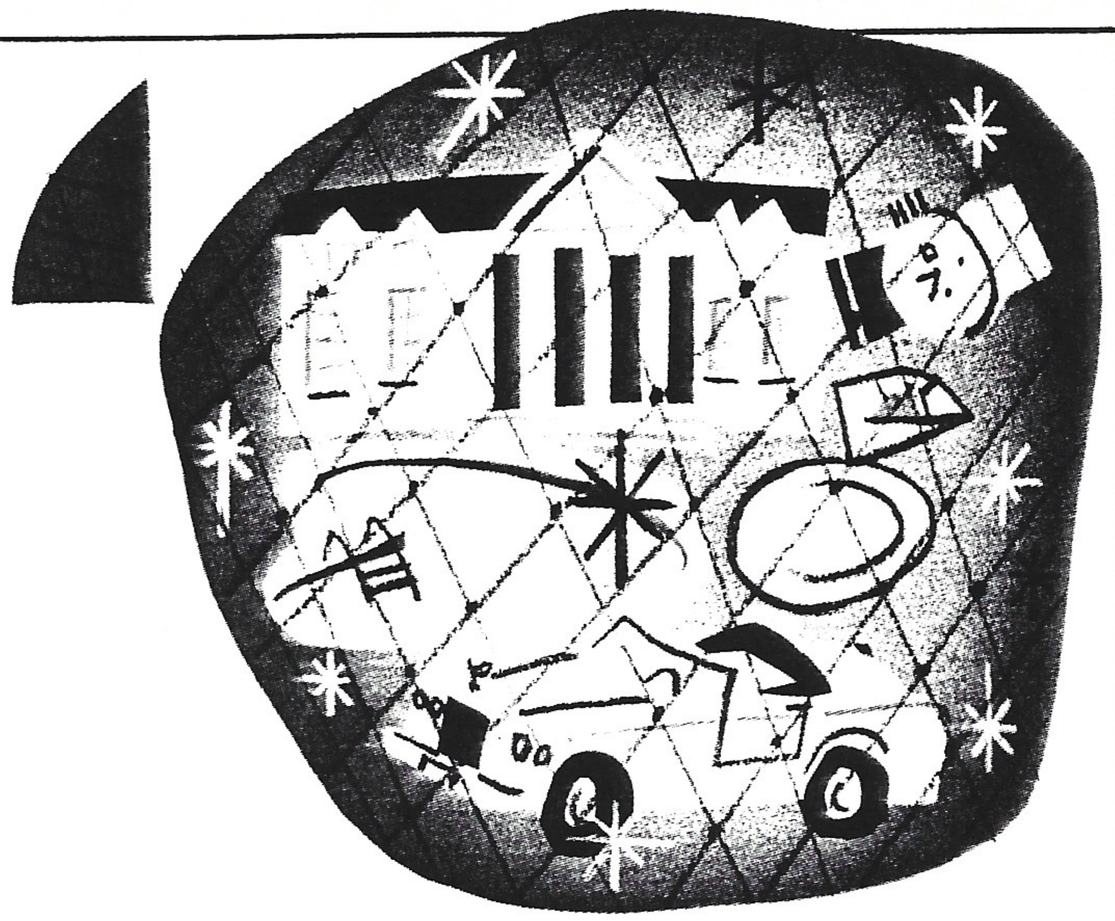
EYE

THE INSIDER'S LONG ISLAND

SPOILS OF WAR



Drug dealers like Rolex watches and BMWs, Krugerrands and powerboats. So says William Schneider of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), who gets to handle millions of dollars worth of drug loot firsthand.

Schneider works for the DEA's asset forfeiture division. These agents try to hit dealers where it hurts—in their pocketbooks—by seizing assets bought with drug money or used to facilitate drug sales. The DEA's take leaped from $166 million in 1984 to $655 million last year.

On LI, the DEA's field division is having a field day, having seized $1.62 million in assets in 1988, up from $651,000 in 1987. (Governor Cuomo knows a good thing when he sees one—he's proposed that the state start a forfeiture program similar to the feds'.) Here's a partial list of the goods taken on LI recently:

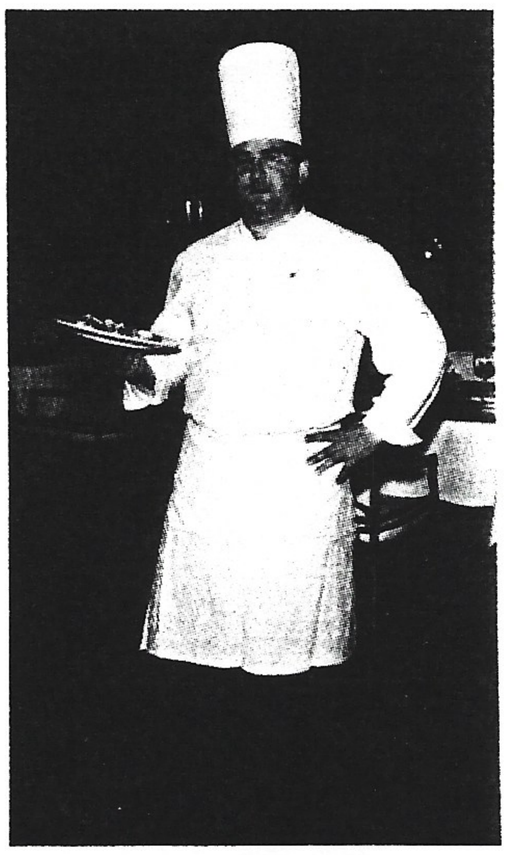
- 200 gold coins (Krugerrands and Maple Leafs) worth $200,000
- seven caches of currency worth a total of $200,000
- residence in Freeport worth $125,000
- residence in Southampton worth $120,000
- 32-foot Pacemaker powerboat worth $95,000
- twin-engine Rockwell Aero-Commander airplane worth $80,000
- 1987 red Corvette worth $19,250
- 1983 BMW 320i worth $10,200
- 1985 Lincoln Town Car worth $6,000

SAY CHEESE

Mitchel London, the former executive chef at Gracie Mansion, has brought his renowned cheesecake to the East End.

London left Mayor Koch's employ last winter amid accusations that he had his fingers in too many pies—he was running a catering business on the side out of Hizzoner's kitchen. London is now the chef at the renovated Montauk Yacht Club, where three new restaurants have made their debuts.

The main restaurant, Ziegfeld's, seats 190 and serves mostly seafood and grilled poultry and beef. "Simple, honest, with generous portions," is how London describes it. The other two are the Marina Grill,



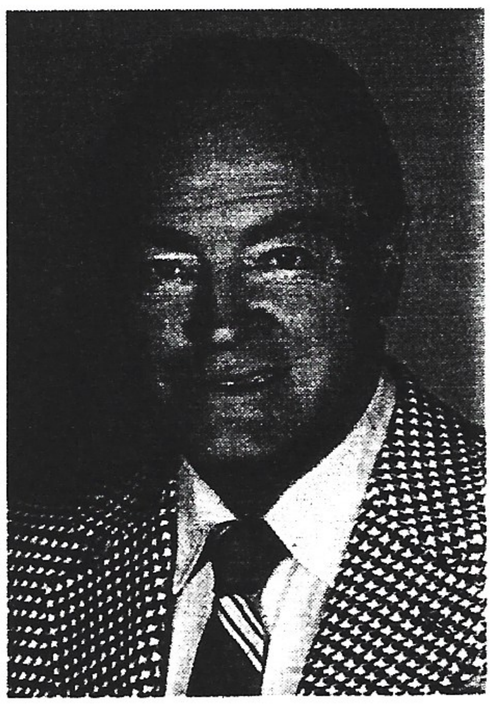
THE CHEF: *No pretensions.*

which offers chicken, ribs, and hamburgers, and Follies, a brasserie.

What London does miss about Gracie Mansion is the view (Montauk Lake "isn't the Triborough Bridge, but it ain't bad") and Mayor Koch's undemanding palette. "If they [club members] are as easy to please as he was, I've got it made," London says.

WHAT A CUTUP!

Bob Hope's a regular at the Westbury Music Fair—he's played there five times in the last six years, and has a gig with Rosemary Clooney this month. At age 85, Hope hasn't slowed down, but he may be getting a little cranky.



THE COMEDIAN: *Hope springs eternal.*

Although Hope says Westbury has "a great audience," don't try to shake the comedian's hand. During a recent phone interview with *LIM*, "Mr. Humanitarian" groused about the setup of Westbury's stage in-the-round. "People stick out their hands, like feelers, trying to touch me. I hate that. I wish some of them would get their fingers cut off." OUCH!

—Danny McCue

BACK TO NATURE

A strange document has been appearing mysteriously in the village of Islandia. It's been posted on the door of the village offices, passed around at a local diner, and has even found its way inside the new Islandia Hilton.

The four-page pamphlet, prepared by "the provisional government of Islandia," is called "The Islandia Nature Walk—A Tour of the New LI." It parodies a nature guide, describing five "proposed nature preserves" in Islandia, which has been labeled a "village for sale" because of its catering to developers.

One of the "preserves" is the Hilton itself, which opened before it received county approval for sewage disposal. "The Village of Islandia has pioneered the concept of ORGANIC GROUNDWATER," says the document. "An ingenious system in the Hilton . . . actually ENRICHES the drinking water of ALL LONG ISLANDERS with nutrients donated by the elite clientele of this posh, glamorous, dazzlingly modern, new landmark." Hilton officials didn't return calls.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER HILL